**Chapter 1 Iqbal Explore Response**

The novel I started reading is called Iqbal by Francesco D’Adano. This novel is written in realistic fiction form. In chapter 1, a girl named Fatima is introduced as a girl who works in a carpet factory in Lahore. She has been there for 3 years. Fatima talks about why she’s in the carpet factory, the poor working conditions and the other children she works with.

The author’s purpose of writing chapter 1 is to tell us how Fatima’s life was before Iqbal arrives. Our purpose for reading Chapter 1 is to understand the difficulties of experiencing child labour. Also for us to see the difference of how Fatima was when Iqbal wasn’t there to help her.

A key line from the text worth remembering is “I hadn’t dreamed for months. I suspect many of us had stopped dreaming but were afraid to admit it” (Pg 2). This is a key line worth remembering because Fatima’s grandmother said receiving no dreams in like not receiving the warmth of someone who is thinking of you. I believe they feel alone and invisible to the outside world and that’s why they stopped dreaming. Another key line worth remembering is “But as time went on memories faded like old, worn carpets” (Pg 8). This is a key line worth remembering because Fatima probably felt like she has lost hope of gaining freedom and seeing her family again. Names worth remembering are Hussain Khan, Iqbal, Fatima and the numskulls. These are all key names worth remembering because they are all main characters in chapter 1. A place worth remembering is carpet factory because that’s the place where the children work. Two other places worth remembering is Pakistan because that’s where Iqbal takes place and Lahore because that’s the area where the carpet factory is located. Other words worth remembering are dawn and dusk because those are the times where the children were working. The word loom is important because that’s the object that was used to make carpets. Slate is should be remembered because that’s that thing that shows the children how much debt the have to pay off. The words three years tell us how long Fatima has been working and rupee is the last word worth remembering because that’s what the children have to earn for them to gain their freedom back.

The organizational features that helped me is that in the novel, the chapters aren’t that long and has the right amount of information that I can grasp. The organizational feature that got in the way of my understanding is that the chapters were named with numbers and not words or a phrase. It was difficult because I didn’t have a clue about what the next chapter would be about.

Things I can relate to is that I have a job just like Fatima. Fatima’s job is to make carpets and my job is to do school work, study, do chores, and take care of my brother. The difference between my job and Fatima’s job is that I don’t get paid, I don’t receive any pain and I am in a good working environment. I can also relate to this chapter my parents also work for money to pay off debt but the difference is that Fatima is a child and my parents are adults.

To evaluate what I just read, my ah-ha moment was that children get blisters while making carpets (Pg 3). This is my ah-ha moment because I was wondering what pain they suffered from while they worked. A connection I had is that when the children don’t get enough work done then they don’t earn a rupee and when I don’t do my homework, I have to stay after school. These are connections because they are both consequences for not doing enough work. One question I had while reading was have any children got all their lines erased from their slate and got their debt paid off? I had this question because Fatima has been working for 3 years and it seems like the lines on her slate aren’t being erased.